THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) As a result of uncertainties in some of our major markets, the global oversupply situation, and the anti-smoking campaign the world over the tobacco sector has in the last two years been faced with a difficult situation. The Tobacco Board has done a good job in helping he farmers and the tobacco trade in grappling with these problems Task Force Export Status of Plantation successfully.

TASK FORCE FOR EXPORT STATUS OF PLANTATION CORP

2171. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to assign a Task Force the job to improve export status of any plantation crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of our plantation crops are not faring well in international market due to competition; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Government is not considering any proposal to assign to a Task Force the job to improve export status of any plantation corp.

(c) Export performance of the main plantation crops in the international market for the last three years has been as under :

Export Earnings.
(Rs. in crores).

Year	Coffee	Tea	Cardamom
1990–91	278.89	1045.41	15.77
1991–92	349.00	1212.27	20.83
1992–93	381.27	993.40	14.87

(d) Coffee : It would be seen from the above figures that in spite of depression in international price, export performance of Coffee has been showing upward trend.

Tea : Tea exports during 1992-93 suffered owing to lower intake by Russia and other CIS countries due to their economic problems.

Exports during April-October, 1993 are higher as compared to exports during the corresponding period of 1992.

Cardamom : Cardamom exports during 1992-93 suffered due to high domestic price as compared to international price, low production and less import by Saudi Arabia.